

Proposal for Department-wide Climate Change Technical Advisory Group

California Department of Water Resources

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In support of the *California Water Plan Update 2009*, the Department assembled an external advisory group to provide technical support and feedback for climate change issues. Known as the Climate Change Technical Advisory Group (CCTAG), the nominally 28-member expert panel advised DWR on the scientific aspects of climate change, its impacts on water resources, the use and creation of planning approaches and analytical tools, and the development of adaptation responses for California's water sector. For example, the CCTAG advised the Department on the white paper *The State of Climate Change Science for Water Resources Operations, Planning, and Management*, authored by State Climatologist Michael Anderson (and included in Update 2009). The group also consulted on *Managing an Uncertain Future; Climate Change Adaptation Strategies for California's Water* (2008), which eventually expanded to become the *California Climate Adaptation Strategy* (2009). A subgroup of the CCTAG was also formed to advise the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan on climate change.

At the conclusion of the Update 2009 process, CCTAG activities generally ceased. Now with Update 2013 well underway, the Climate Change Program is proposing to reinstate the CCTAG, this time, though, with a broader scope and different membership and structure. Specifically, the proposal is to form a standing technical advisory group on climate change impacts and adaptation that would serve the California Water Plan and all other DWR programs, on a variety of climate-related issues, including scientific review of climate change models and scenarios, interpretation of scientific information produced by the National Climate Assessment and the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and informing climate change adaptation policies. Benefits of this approach include some level of consistency in the scientific advice the Department receives on climate change, the development of a group of climate experts that sees all of the Department's activities, and the administrative efficiency of not having redundant climate change advisory groups across the Department.

Specifically, we propose the following memberships and structure for the CCTAG.

- A core team would be composed of nine members representing different climate-related sciences or disciplines:
 - Atmospheric science
 - Hydrology

- Civil Engineering/Infrastructure
- Environmental science
- Climate data and statistics
- Social science
- Resource economics
- Land use planning
- Climate modeling
- Each core team member would serve a three-year term.
- Up to four supplemental members, with specialized education and/or experience, would be added on an issue-by-issue basis, with no term of service.
- The State Climatologist, Dr. Michael Anderson, would serve as a permanent member.
- Mr. Guido Franco, Program Area Lead for Environmental Research with the California Energy Commission's Public Interest Energy Research (PIER) Program, would serve as an *ex-officio* member.
- DWR would choose the CCTAG Chair, who would concurrently serve as the Department's formal climate change science advisor¹.

The entire CCTAG would be considered a pilot project with a three-year life, with a formal, independent evaluation upon sunset. An additional option is for the panel to be eventually associated with an existing climate science center, such as PIER's California Climate Change Center, a Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessment program, the Southwest Climate Science Center, or the University of California.

DWR's climate change program would dedicate a portion of one of its positions to manage the CCTAG. A subgroup of DWR's Climate Change Matrix Team would be tasked with attending CCTAG meetings and developing background information for the members. CCTAG members would be reimbursed for travel expenses within State guidelines, which would also be paid for by the Climate Change Program. The Program would also fund the sunset evaluation.

¹ The CCTAG chair would preside over group meetings and be available to DWR staff for short-turnaround climate science advice between meetings.